

b2 layers of solid material which build up on the interfacing surfaces of the rotor and the stator in the passage.--.

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DECLARATION:

Please make of record the accompanying Declaration.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 12 as follows:

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C1-12 --12. (amended) A method of providing a seal between first and second relatively rotatable parts of a mechanism used in an environment comprising pulverulent material entrained in a fluid, including the steps of:

providing a seal comprising a first element and a second element between which an annular passage is defined when the first element is mounted on one said part of the mechanism and the second element is mounted on the other said part of the mechanism and the one part is rotated with respect to the other, the annular passage being defined by interfacing surfaces of the respective elements between which there is a clearance; and

depositing pulverulent material entrained in the fluid which enters the annular passage to form a labyrinthine passage having a width which is substantially smaller than the clearance to substantially restrict flow of the fluid through the annular passage when the mechanism is in use.--

04 [Amend claim 13 as follows:]

--13. (amended) Apparatus for providing a seal between first and second relatively rotatable parts of a mechanism used in an environment comprising pulverulent material entrained in a fluid, the apparatus comprising:

a first element and a second element between which an annular passage is defined when the first element is mounted on one said part of the mechanism and the second element is mounted on the other said part of the mechanism and the one part is rotated with respect to the other,

wherein the annular passage is defined by interfacing surfaces of the respective elements between which there is a clearance such as to enable pulverulent material entrained in the fluid to enter the annular passage when the apparatus is in use and to be deposited in layers which build up so that there is formed between the layers a labyrinthine passage having a width which is substantially smaller than the clearance between the interfacing surfaces and is such that the flow of fluid through the labyrinthine passage is substantially restricted.--

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Cancel claim 14.

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Amend claim 23 as follows:

b5 --23. (amended) Apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the first element is a rotor and the second element is a stator and further comprising second and third members provided

85C1 in the annular passage that are constructed of material which is more susceptible to wear than the material of which the interfacing surfaces of the elements are constructed, the second member being seated on the stator and the third member being seated on the rotor so as to rotate therewith with respect to the second member, there being clearance between the second member and the third member so that the third member is able to move radially with respect to the second member when the rotor rotates.--

Add the following new claim:

86C1 --24. (new) Apparatus for providing a seal between first and second relatively rotatable parts of a mechanism used in an environment comprising pulverulent material entrained in a fluid, the apparatus comprising:

a first element and a second element between which an annular passage is defined when the first element is mounted on one said part of the mechanism and the second element is mounted on the other said part of the mechanism and the one part is rotated with respect to the other,

wherein the annular passage is defined by interfacing surfaces of the respective elements between which there is clearance and on which, when the mechanism is in use, the pulverulent material entrained in the fluid which enters the annular passage can be deposited in layers which substantially restrict flow of the fluid through the annular passage, and